

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

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P 160845Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2028

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 322

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID EAIR EINV ETRD US SF

SUBJ: FIFTEEN TOP AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN VISIT NATAL

1. ORGANIZED BY FINANSBANK AND SPONSORED BY TEN MAJOR SOUTH AFRICAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, 15 TOP U.S. INDUSTRIALISTS ARRIVED DURBAN SEPT 15. GOLFING WITH GARY PLAYER AND LEADING NATAL BUSINESSMEN YESTERDAY, GROUP REPORTEDLY ON LOOKOUT FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN S.A. AND DESIROUS OF ASSISTING LOCAL MANUFACTURERS.

2. BRIEFING GROUP IS WELL-KNOWN NATAL ECONOMIST DR. LAWRENCE MCCRYSTAL WHO, INTER ALIA, IS CHARGED BY KWAZULU GOVERNMENT WITH PREPARATION STUDY ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES KWAZULU CONSOLIDATION. GROUP COMPRISED OF SANFORD N. MCDONNELL, AMERICAN MCDONNELL DOUGLAS CORP; ROBERT B. BOTCHERBY, MANAGING DIRECTOR, BANK OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL--EXPECTING TO RENEW CONTACTS WITH SAG AND RESERVE BANK; MR. GEORGE LAWRENCE, SENIOR VP OF AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION; MR. DAVID J. PICKARD, PRESIDENT, PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS; MR. ROBERT SEYMOUR, CHAIRMAN, NATURAL CONSOLIDATED GAS
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PIPELINES, IN SEARCH OF FIRST HAND INFORMATION IN FIELDS

OF OIL AND GAS. MR. CHARLES WOHLSTETTER, CHIERMAN, CONTINENTAL TELEPHONE COMPANY, PRESS NOTES, UNDER SUB-CONTRACT WITH FRENCH FIRM TO SUPPLY COMMUNICATIONS CABLE TO S.A. RAILWAYS, IS EXAMINING LOCAL RAILWAYS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.

3. MCDONNELL TOLD PRESS THAT ALTHOUGH HIS COMPANY LOST BID WHICH RESULTED IN S.A. AIRWAYS BUYING EUROPEAN AIRBUS, HIS COMPANY ANXIOUS DO BUSINESS WITH S.A. AND SUPPLY TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW. BANKERS AND BROKERS IN GROUP STATED THEY ARE EXAMINING S.A.'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS, MANY LARGE LOANS HAVING BEEN MADE AND ARRANGED IN PAST BY THEM.

4. REPORTEDLY, GARY PLAYER WILL ACCOMPANY GROUP ON TOUR THROUGH S.A. TO INCLUDE VISITS TO CAPE TOWN AND JOHANNESBURG. A FURTHER GAME OF GOLF IS SCHEDULED WITH PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF MINES IN PRETORIA. S.A. FIRMS FUNDING PROJECT WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, IT IS INDICATED. ACCORDING TO GARY PLAYER, HE IS RECIPROCATING FOR HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO HIM ON PAST VISITS TO U.S.
FARBER

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